



Whitworth Town Council

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL held on Thursday 16 May 2024 at The Ashcroft, Whitworth Civic Hall, Market Street, Whitworth

Present:

Chairman: Councillor Mike Royds (item 1) / Councillor Gareth Baron (all items thereafter)

Councillors:

Councillor L Burton
Councillor D Chorlton
Councillor R A Neal
Councillor K Olaolu

Councillor D Powell
Councillor S Rhodes
Councillor M Whitworth
Councillor J Whitehead

Official: Miss Rachel Hodson, Clerk of the Council

In attendance: Family and guests of the Mayor Elect, distinguished guests, and members of the public.

- The Mayor asked Reverend Janet O'Neill to bless the meeting.
- The Mayor addressed those in attendance, stating what an honour and privilege it had been for him to serve 12 months as Mayor. He had thoroughly enjoyed attending numerous engagements across the Whitworth and the rest of the North West during this time. The Mayor thanked the people of Whitworth, fellow members of the Council, his Mayoress and the Town Clerk for their support, and offered his best wishes to the incoming Mayor.

1. To elect a person to the position of Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/2025.

It was resolved that Councillor Mr Gareth Baron be and is hereby elected Town Mayor of Whitworth for the Municipal Year 2024/2025. Councillor Baron then made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Councillor Baron welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was moved by Cllr Whitehead and seconded by Cllr Chorlton.

2. To elect a person to the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/2025.

It was resolved that Councillor Ms Kim Olaolu be and is hereby elected Deputy Town Mayor of Whitworth for the Municipal Year 2024/2025. This was moved by Cllr Whitworth and seconded by Cllr Baron.

3. To offer a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Mr Mike Royds.

It was resolved that the thanks and best wishes of the Town Council be extended to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Mr Mike Royds. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Olaolu.

4. To receive apologies for absence and the reasons for apologies.

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting by Cllr Aldred who had a family emergency and after the meeting by Cllr Blezard who was working.

5. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

No declarations of interest were received.

6. To consider the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21 March 2024, and to approve them by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record.

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21 March 2024, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, be approved by the signature of the Chairman as a correct record. This was moved by Cllr Rhodes and seconded by Cllr Chorlton.

7. To review, and if appropriate accept, the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

It was resolved that the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 be accepted. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Olaolu.

8. To appoint all Town Council Members to Whitworth Town Council's General Purposes Committee.

It was resolved that all Members be appointed to the General Purposes Committee. This was moved by Cllr Whitehead and seconded by Cllr Burton.

9. To appoint all Town Council Members to Whitworth Town Twinning Committee.

It was resolved that all Members be appointed to the Whitworth Town Twinning Committee. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Baron.

10. To appoint new members onto the Farrow Hoyle Committee.

It was resolved that Councillors Tom Aldred, Louise Burton, David Chorlton and Janet Whitehead be appointed to the Farrow Hoyle Committee. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Whitworth.

11. To appoint representatives and delegates to committees.

It was resolved that the following Councillors be appointed to the relevant organisations:

The other committees are then proposed en bloc

Grievance Committee: Cllrs Aldred, Powell, Whitehead

Appeals Committee: Cllrs Chorlton, Baron, Blezard

Finances Monitoring Comm: The Mayor plus Cllrs Aldred, Chorlton, Neal and Olaolu

Tourism & Leisure Committee: Cllrs Blezard, Chorlton, Rhodes & Royds

Farrow Hoyle Committee: Cllrs Aldred (1); Whithead (2); Chorlton (3); Burton (4)

Personnel Working Group (clerk's appraisal): The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllrs Royds & Whithead

Whitworth Valley News working group: Cllrs Baron, Olaolu & Rhodes

Hallfold Conservation working group: Cllrs Chorlton, Olaolu & Rhodes

Spodden Valley Revealed working group: Cllrs Chorlton, Olaolu, Rhodes & Whitworth

MUGA working group: Cllrs Chorlton and Whithead

Outside Bodies:

Burnley Area LALC: Cllrs Royds & Whitworth

RBC Standards Committee:	Cllrs Aldred & Baron
Healey Dell Man. Comm:	Cllrs Olaolu & Rhodes
Rochdale A.E. & Parish Trust:	Cllr Neal
Whitworth Community Partnership:	Cllrs Olaolu & Rhodes
Whitworth Sports Council:	Cllrs Blezard & Whitworth
Hallfold Playgroup:	Cllrs Rhodes & Whitworth
Whitworth Flood Forum:	Cllrs Rhodes & Whitworth
Multi-agency Meetings:	Cllrs Olaolu & Whitehead
Crook Hill Funding Panel:	Cllrs Olaolu & Neal
Rossendale Connected:	Cllrs Olaolu, Royds & Whitehead
Whitworth in Bloom:	Cllrs Baron, Chorlton, Powell and Whitehead
Named member to work closely with Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC and report back to Whitworth Town Council:	Cllr Baron
Names member to oversee works undertaken by contractors for Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC:	Cllr Blezard

This was moved by Cllr Chorlton and seconded by Cllr Rhodes.

12. To confirm the dates, time and place of meetings of the Council for the Municipal Year 2024/2025.

It was resolved that the dates, times and place of meetings of the Council for the Municipal Year 2024/2025, as presented to the Council, be approved and adopted. This was moved by Cllr Powell and seconded by Cllr Burton.

13. To appoint an Internal Auditor for the Municipal Year 2024/2025.

It was resolved that Mr Tom Middlehurst be appointed as Internal Auditor for the Municipal Year 2024/2025. Thanks are placed on record to Mr Middlehurst for his continuing service to the Town Council. This was moved by Cllr Neal and seconded by Cllr Royds.

14. To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to lay before the Council.

The Mayor addressed those in attendance, stating what an honour it is to be Mayor of Whitworth. The Mayor confirmed that he is very much looking forward to the year ahead and would be raising funds for Whitworth causes throughout the year. He stated that his theme for the year would be unity was looking forward to working together with his fellow councillors in harmony. The Mayor offered thanks to his fellow councillors and thanked the Mayor and Mayoress for their hard work over the previous year.

15. To answer questions from Councillors.

None were put.

16. Public Question Time (Standing Order 68).

A member of the public asked a question about the remainder of the Landgate money. Cllr Baron explained that this would be added to the next Full Council Meeting agenda for discussion.

- *Reverend Janet O'Neill closed the meeting with a prayer.*

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm, and invited all present to join him, and his family and friends for light refreshments.